LITERATURE.

TDEAL OLD AGE.

It seems to be a general belief that a literary or scientific woman is not only a great de asppier out of the married state than in it, but that her mariage tends to decrease the happine of the man who becomes her mate. So widespread in this idea that there is a general uplifting of hands when an instance becomes proved of a woman, renowned for intellectual gifts and accom plishments, achieving and creating happiness as a wife and mother. The general tendency to disbelieve in the combination of intellectual pre-emi nence with conjugal happiness is not without pretty solid foundation. The history of literature and science is only too full of evidence of the misery ensuing from the mistakes made by intellectual men and women in selecting partners in whom they thought they recognized their proper amnities. Hence any contradiction of what appears to be the general rule is particularly grateful to those whose ideal of human felicity is the deep, calm joy of a happy married life, of two beings whose natures are wedded to a degree infinitely more intimate than that accomplished by ring and priest. There is a double satisfaction in welcoming the autobiography of Mrs. Somerville, because it gives illustration pler confirmation of the possible sunshine of wedded life, where the wife possesses recognized intellectual supremacy, than of the gloom and shadow. Mrs. Somerville was twice married, and on each occasion to a cousin. Her first husband was Mr. Samuel Greig, Commissioner of the Russian Navy and Russian Cousul for Britain. The marriage took place in 1804. It lasted three years at the end of which time Mrs. Somerville was left a widow. The entire history of these three years is disposed of in five pages of the autobiography, but a lew lines therein are a key to the first experience in marriage. She says:-

My husband had taken me to his bachelor's hous My husband had taken me to his bachelor's house in London, which was exceedingly small and ill-ventilated. I had a key of the neighboring square, where I used walk. I was alone the whole of the day, so I continued my mathematical and other pursuits, but under great disadvantages; for although my husband did not prevent me from studying, I met with no sympathy whatever from him, as he had a very low opinion of the capacity of my sex, and had neither knowledge of nor interest in science of any kind.

These lines were written by Mar Capacitile.

These lines were written by Mrs. Somerville more than 60 years after the manner of life alluded to in them was led. The irritation under which she must have labored had had more than half a century to cool, and hence the temperature of the language. But, without any overweening sent ment, it is easy to picture to one's self the spectacle of the lonely wife bending over her books in soli tude, and finding in Euler and La Grange the sympathy which a husband who "had a very low opinion of the capacity of" her sex and "neither knowledge of nor interest in science of any kind' found it impossible to bestow.

The second marriage of our autobiographer bestowed upon her the name under which she subbecame known to the scientific world. It occurred in 1812, and was contracted with her cousin, William Sometville. The marriage was dissolved by the death of Mr. Somerville, nearly 50 years after, on June 26, 1860. So far as everything that could contribute to affection and happiness is to be taken into account, it was as different from the first marriage as it is possible to conceive. On several occasions Mrs. Some ville comes out of the reticence in which she wraps her emotions and gives tribute to this second husband's generosity and worth, as on page 176, when she says, with more than ordinary warmto, on the occasion of her being elected honorary member of the Royal Academy at Dublin, of the Bristol Philosophic Institution and of the Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle

Our relations and others, who had so severely criticised and ridiculed me, astonisned at my success, were now load in my praise. The warmtn with which Somerville entered into my success deeply affected me; for not one in ten thousand would have rejoiced in it as he did. But he was of a generous nature, far above jealousy, and he con-tinued through life to take the kindest interest in all I did.

It is, however, to Martha Somerville, the daughter, who frequently supplements her mother's narrative precisely at those points where the need of additional information is most felt. regard to Dr. Somerville's approval and encourage ment of his wife's scientific labors. In one of the pleasantest of her parentheses Martha remarks:

My father's style in writing English was singu subject—a severe critic, whether in co the children's lessons or in reading over the last proof sheets of my mother's works pr eir publication. These qualities would I him very well to write the history of , but he disliked the trouble of it, and, account, he let the time for publication sup by, others travelled over the country he first explored, and the novelty was at an end. He was far happier in helping my mother in various ways, searching the libraries for the books she required indefairgably, copying and recopying her manuscripts, to save her time. No trouble seemed too great which he bestowed upon her; it was a labor of

This is certainly a charming picture. It does not often happen that a man possessing respect-able literary and scientific qualifications submits gracefully to be outshone by his wife in that sphere. Mediocrity is more apt than absolute incapacity to breed envy. Dr. Somerville had spent a great portion of his life in the American colonies and had travelled extensively in South Africa. His daughter Martha tells us that, without being very deeply learned in any one especial subject, he was generally well informed and very intelligent; was an excellent classical scholar, took a lively interest in all branches of natural history; was a good botanist and mineralogist, and had made. while abroad, numerous valuable notes out of which it is easy to believe that a work of more than average significance and interest might have been complied. To a man with these accomplishments much generosity was necessary to have prevented a feeling of envy of the brilliant woman who so completely outstrode him.

Perhaps the most striking trait which this anto blography evinces is the plain common sense and unpretending independence of spirit of the author. The style is simple, but not dry. It occasionally rises into cordiality, but never becomes florid. Judged by this revelation alone, the author is felt to have been blessed with a finely balanced organ ization, in which the intellect, the sensibilities and the will were most symmetrically proportioned, and found their lodgement in a healthy physica frame, capable of protracted labor and always rebounding lightly from the strain. She was 33 years of age, and already in the first twelvementh of her marriage to Dr. Somerville, before she had succeeded in collecting a sufficient number of books on mathematics to be entitled to the name of a mathe matical library. These included the works of Francœur, Blot, Poisson, La Grange, Euler, Clairauit, Monge, Callet and La Place. Nothing can better illustrate her simplicity of statement and characteristic straightforwardness and indepen dence than her description of herself at this por tion of her career. She says, referring to the little library :-

library:—

I could hardly believe that I possessed such a treasure when I looked back on the day that I first saw the mysterious word "Algebra," and the long coerse of years in which I had persevered almost without hope. It taught me never to despair. I had now the means, and pursued my study with increased assiduity; concealment was no longer possible, nor was it attempted. I was considered eccentric and foolish, and my conduct was highly disapproved of by many, especially by some members of my own ismily, as will be seen hereaiter. They expected me to entertain and keep a gay house for them, and in that they were disappointed. As I was quite independent I did not care for their criticism. A great part of the day I was occupied with my children; in the evening I worked, played piquet with my father, or played on the plane, sometimes with violin accompaniment.

Mrs. Somerville passed much of her life on the Continent, and was fond of wintering at Florence and Sienna. In company with her husband she paid repeated visits to France and made a tour through Germany. Wherever she went she was entertained by the most distinguished men and women of the place, and was appointed honorary member of nearly every scientific society whos standing made such appointment a distinction worth receiving. She did not shun genial society. On the contrary, the elements were so happily

united in ner that when laugued with long-continued and profound abstractions she could turn mly to the world and find a charm in the con versation of those whose ways of life diverged widely from hers. Her accounts of her visits to France and Italy in 1816 and 1817 abound with anecdote of persons in all fleids of distinction Though as a rule she speaks kindly of those whom she mentions with any degree of minuteness, she can at times be severe, but her severity is always accompanied with reasons which more than justify it. Thus she says :-

At Florence I was presented to the Countess of Albany, widow of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the Pretender. She was then supposed to be married to Alfleri, the poet, and had a kind of State reception every evening. I did not like her, and never went again. Her manner was prond and insolent, "so you don't speak italian; you must have had a very bad education, for Miss Clephane Maclane there (who was close by) speaks obth French and Italian periectly." So saying sne turned away and never addressed another word to me.

She describes Arago as tall and good looking, with an animated countenance and black eyes; of character noble, generous and energetic, and tall, but thin, upright and rather formal, distinguished in his manners and with something of the courtier in him. He was incomparably superior to Arago in mathematics and astronomic cal science, but inferior in general accomplish ments. In the large assemblage of philoso-phers to whom she was introduced she had expected a very grave and learned conversation. On the contrary, every one talked in a gay, animated and loud key, especially M. Poisson, author of "Treatise on Mechanics." Visiting the theatre she had the opportunity of comparing Talma with John Kemble, and Mademoiselle Duchenois with Mrs. Siddons. The comparison in Somerville, by the way, had, in her youth, seen Mrs. Siddons act in Edinburgh, and atterwards, when Mrs. Siddons was an old woman, had heard her read in private from Shakespeare and Milton, mme. La Place, whom she describes as an élégante. received the rising mathematicienne in bed, exquisitely dressed, after the manner of the fashionable French ladies of that time. Lord Byron she saw at Venice at a reception of the Countess Albrezzi, but did not have any conversation with him because "he would not make the acquaintance of any English neonle at that time " At Bologna she became acquainted with the celebrated Mezzofanti, whom she describes as a quietlooking priest, whose conversation was not remarkable and whose countenance evinced no talent.

The religious views of a character like Mrs. Somerville are always interesting, because they furnish a basis for judging how far a courageous independent, well-balanced and splendidly endowed intellect may depart from the average standard. The information she vonchastes however, is not so full as those who reverence her genius would like to find. Writing in her eightyninth year she says :--Although I have been tried oy many severe af-

Although I have been tried oy many severe affictions, my life, upon the whole, has been happy. In my youth I had to contend with prejudice all illiberality: yet I was of a quiet temper and easy to live with; and I never interfered with or pried into other people's affairs. However, it irritated by what I considered unjust criticism or interference with mysel', or any one lioved, I could resent it flercely. I was not good at argument. I was apt to lose my temper; but I never bore ill will to any one or lorgot the manners of a gentlewoman, however angry I may have been at the time. But I must say that no one ever met with such kindness as I have done. I never had an enemy. I have never been of a melancholy disposition; though depressed sometimes by circumstances I always railled again; and although I seldom laugh I can langh heartily at wit or on fit occasion. The short time I have to live maturally occupies my thoughts. In the blessed hope of living again with my beloved children and those who were and are dear to me on earth, I think of death with composure and beriest confidence in the mercy of God. Yet to m, who am afraid to sleep alone on a stormy night, or even to sleep comfortably any night unless some one is near, it is a learful though that my spirit must enter that new state of existence quite alone. We are told of the infinite glories of that state, and I believe in them, though it is incomprehensible to us; but as I comfortably any night unless some one is near, it is a searful thought that my spirit must enter that new state of existence quite alone. We are told of the infinite glories of that state, and I believe in them, though it is incomprehensible to us; but as I do comprehend, in some degree at least, the exquisite loveliness of the visible world. I coniess I shall be sorre to leave it. I shall regret the sky, he sea, with all the changes of their bear ind coloring; the earth, with its verdure and lowers; but lar more shall I grieve to leave animals who have followed our steps affectionately for years, without knowing their ultimate fate—though I firmly believe that the living principle is never extinguished. Since the atoms of matter are indestructible, as far as we know, it is difficult to believe that the spark which gives to their inner life memory, afection, intelligence and ndelity, is evanceent. Every atom in the human frame, as well as in that of animals, undergoes a periodical change by continual waste and renovation. The abode is changed, not its inhabitant. If animals have no future the existence of many is most wretched. Multitudes are starved, cruelly beaten, overloaded during life; many die under a barbarous vivisection. I cannot believe that any creature was created for uncompensated misery; it would be contrary to the attributes of God's mercy and justice. I am sincerely happy to find that I am not the only believer in the immortality of the lower animals.

Beautiful are the closing glimpses of this wonlerful lite. In 1872 she says:-

I am now, in my ninety-second year, still able to rive out for several hours. I am extremely deaf. drive out for several hours. I am extremely deaf, and my memory of ordinary events, and especially of the names of people, is failing, but not for problematical and scientific subjects. I am still problematical and scientific subjects. I am still able to read books on the higher algebra for four or five hours in the morning, and even to solve the problems. So netimes I find them difficult, but my old obstinacy remains; for if I do not succeed to-day I attack them again on the morrow. I also enjoy reading about all the new discoveries and theories in the scientific world and in all branches of science. A little later she writes:-

A little later she writes:—

Now that I am in my ninety-second year I must soon expect the signal for sailing. It is a solemn voyage, but it does not disturb my tranquinty. Deeply sensible of my atter unworthness, and profoundly grateful for the innumerable blessings I have received, I trust in the infinite mercy of my-almighty Creator. I have every reason to be thankful that my intellect is still unimpaired, and, although my strength is weakness, my danghters support my tottering steps, and by incessant care and help make the infirmities of age so light to me that I am perfectly happy. that I am perfectly happy.

These are her last words. And so we leave ber

dying in her slumber-a sleep within a sleep-on the morning of November 29, 1872, a little more than a year ago. Surely the last third of such a life illustrates the very ideal of old age, an old age radiant with profound culture, unobtrusive religion and all the sweet amenities of a thoroughly

* Personal Recollections from Early Life to Old Age of Mary Somerville; with Selections from her Correspondence, by her daughter, Martha Somer-ville. Published by Roberts Brothers, Boston.

MAURY'S PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

In opening and turning over the leaves of this beautiful book, with its wealth of excellent, chaste and handsome pictures, it awakens a spirit of enjoyment like that with which the traveller is inspired when from a neighboring mountain he looks down upon the broad, rich and luxuriant "Royal Plain" of St. Domingo. If a more comprehensive, instructive and attractive work of kind than this, within the limits of 218 pages atlas form, has ever been published, in either hemisphere, we should be pleased to see it. It bears the imprint of "The University Publishing Company, New York and Baltimore, 1873," and is the crowning work of the industrious and well spent life of the late and universally lamented M. T. Maury, for 15 years Superinten dent of the National Observatory at Washington

Professor Maury says in his Preface that "this lume, together with the three graded geographies previously published and a treatise or Astronomy, forming the author's contribution to the University Series of School Books, was com menced in 1866;" that "It is the joint labor of his wife, daughters and son, and constituted one of the chief sources of their home recreation during their residence in England;" that "there the best sources of information were kindly and freely opened to him;" that "this, combined with the knowledge and experience acquired or perfected in the superintendency of the Washington Observatory, made the undertaking congenial and the occupation as charming as labors of love always are," and that "the aim throughout the series ha been to strip these two most important branches-Geography and Astronomy-of dry details and technicalities, to popularize these fields of mere technicalities, to popularize these fields of knowledge and to make them as interesting and instructive to students as possible." So far, then.

we build upon solid ground. The publishers

in their introductory note say that, previous to the last illness of the distinguished author, "he had just revised his manuscripts, the charts had been engraved and the proofs had passed under his eye and the work of the artists and printers was well advanced"-that "the present work is therefore the matured work of the untiring brain field of scientific research;" that the work is at length given "to the educational public as a grand contribution to science and education," and that to Live the work a dress befitting its high merit neither effort nor expense has been spared in its publication. The fine white paper, the clear and beautiful type and the exquisitely finished charts and pictorial engravings, and the handsome head lines which mark the divisions and numerous subdivisions of the book, attest the truth of the pub lishers' statement touching its mechanical execution, paper, engravings, typography and printing. It is a work of high art and skilled labor, of which the publishers and the country may justly be

In the arrangement of the subjects discussed therein this work is first divided into six parts:-Earth, Features of the Land, Meteorological Phenomena, Phenomena and Life of the Sea, the Life and Products of the Earth and the Ame ican Continent. Next we have the subdivisions of these main chapters, wnich, we may say, embrace everything "in the heavens above, in the earth beneath and in the waters (and fires) under the earth." For example, under the general head of "the Earth" we are given the Earth as a Planet, Size, Distance and Motions of the Sun and Planets, the Earth's Motions, the Earth's Dimensions and Weight, Velocity of the Earth's Motions, Effect of Rotation upon Weight, Evidences of the Earth's Sphericity, Change of Temperature with Distance rom the Earth's Centre, Range of Human Hubits tion, Distribution of Land and Water, Northern and Southern Hemispheres Compared, the Antipodes, &c. Next, in considering the Crust of the Earth we have, as far as discovered, its Chemical E ements, the Lessons Taught by Geclogy, the Earth's Internal Heat, Rocks, Volcanic Rocks, the Ages of Volcanic and Plutonic Rocks, the Metamorphic Rocks, the Aqueous Rocks, Historical Geology; Silurian Age, or Age of Mollusks: Devonian Age, or Age of Fishes; Reptilian Age; Tertiary, or Age of Mammals; the Glacial Epoch. The various ages and stages through which our little planet has passed, as infallibly recorded in the different layers of its crust, are presented so simply and clearly that the dullest scholar may comprehend them, and thus be qualified to read on the sides of a cliff or in the ascent of a mountain the history of our globe through millions of years. Taking next the division on Meteorology, the phenomena of heat and light, climate, day and night, summer and winter, winds, deserts and circulation of air, storms, caims and fogs, dew and clouds, rains and rivers, glaciers and icebergs, magnetism and electricity-all these things are so lucidly explained, in the simplest terms, as to open the projoundest mysteries of science to the general understanding. And so of all the numerous matters presented in the volume.

The charts, carefully drawn, beautifully engraved and skillully colored, are of the highest order of workmanship, and to indicate their value it will suffice to say that among them are a chart indicating the distribution of rain over the earth and the rainless districts; a chart of the winds; a drainage of the land: a thermal and tidal chart: a chart of the principal vegetable growths and chief staples; a chart of the regions producing cotton, sugar cane, coffee and tea, and of the distribution of plants by altitude above sea level; a chart of the distribution of birds, beasts and fishes; a chart showing the geographical distribution of minerals; a chart showing the distribution of the races of men, and a chart showing the principal industrial pursuits of different countries. Such charts, or nost of them, are to be found in othera tlases; but in this volume they have the peculiar merit of a distinctness of presentation which requires no research to grasp the details. Though given in a small compass, the subjects which they are intended ple, in the chart delineating the currents of the sea and the drainage of the land, we take in at a giance the configuration of the continents, their drainage, interior and exterior, and those tre-North and South Atlantic and the North and the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean, and those great currents which flow out from and into the Polar regions North and South, and the calm basins in the heart of each of the oceans named, around which these ocean rivers roll, and within which the surface of the calm waters is covered for leagues with seaweeds seldom ruffled by a passing storm. In this single chart are presented the resuits, the "fixed facts" discovered from the observations, explorations and researches of seamen

a thousand volumes. Turning next to the abounding pictorial illustrations of this delightful volume, they are unsurpassed as specimens of beautiful cograving, the admirable works of the London Art Journal. Take as a specimen of the engravings of this geography that of "A Scene in the Carboniferous Epoch." or that of a view of "The Grand Canon and Lower Falls of the Yellowstone, in the Yellowstone National Park," and the critical reader will be satisfied upon this point. There is an old axiom which is us that "there is no royal road to mathematics:" but from the attractiveness of this book. among others lately introduced into our school and libraries, there evidently is a more pleasant road through every field of learning than the old rough and unpaved tracks travelled over down to the living generation. But in this Golden Age of printing and engraving, even our dictionaries with their pictorial illustrations, are made attractive. How much more inviting, then, may be made by these modern illuminations a work devoted to the wonders of the wonderful little globe which

we inhabit and its sublime surroundings! And yet, after all, the chief attraction of this charming book is the simple and lucid style in which the profoundest scientific treatment of the subject is given to the student, blended with a dominating faith in the Creator. We will give a brief extract or two from the book in support of this statement. Professor Maury, in his observations on the "Silurian Age, or Age of Mollusks," in speaking of our globe, says:- "Since first its surface cooled there has been a constant growth in thickness from the azoic rocks, and a constant advance to the higher forms of life. After each period of slow change or violent disturbance we find in no case a return to lower types, and fewer genera in the new strata, but even an adyance in that series which was to be crowned and completed by the creation of man. Through all the preceding ages the world was being built and furnished ready for the occupation of that favored being who alone was endowed with reason and immortality. For him, age after age added to its store of plants and animals; the coal was stored in beds, and the metals in veins; the barren waters receded, and the earth was decked with beauty and stored with plenty for his occupation. No evolution is here, no development from the mollusk to the monkey and from the monkey to man; but the gradual preparation of the earth for man, and his especial creation in the fulness of time to occupy it.

But, again, in treating of the "Carboniferous Age," Professor Maury thus explains the origin and processes of our coat formations:-"During this age a warm, moist and equable climate spread itself from pole to pole and covered the land from the Arctic to the Autartic regions with a tropical vegetation of the most vigorous growth and enormous proportions. Have you ever seen ferns cliffs of the rock? Except within the tropics they are now small plants. In those days they were trees. Among its fossils are specimens of single ferns 40 or 50 feet high, with many other plants and trees, the like of which are now nowhere to be found. Conifers and calamites are also abundant At this stage in the history of our planet the in teresting record (f. e., the record of the rocks) goes on to tell of floods and rivers, of subsidence and uppeavals on the land and in the sea; of convul sions and cataclysms, during which these forests were swept away, submerged and covered with mud and silt, and the debris of what seems to be

trees and plants that our coat fields are formed. More than 300 species of lossil plants have been found in this group."

Again, discoursing of the Sun, the author says :-"The sun emits non-luminous as well as luminous rays. Its beams are composed also of chemical or active rays, as well as rays of light and rays of heat, all of which can be separated by the prism. The rays of heat are at the red end; we cannot most intense in the yellow; we cannot reel them but we can see them. The chemical rays are at the violet end, and these we can neither see nor feel. Nevertheless, highly important offices are assigned to them in the hysical economy. They make pictures; they help to construct the woods fibre for the trees and lint for the cotton plant; to paint the flowers, and to elaborate juices for the peach and periums for the violet, and nourish all fold offices in the organic world by the force of these little vibrations," &c .- referring to those waves in which all the rays from the sun are borne to its satellites.

labor of love, "The wonderful geologic changes, extending through the ages, should suggest to us them, as out of seeming disorder and confusion evolved the barmony and the beauty of the present earth. In the beginning God created the h. avens and the earth.' It is He that worketh in such diverse ways and through so many geologic periods has stored the earth's crust with its precious treasures and prepared its surface for the abode of His righest creation-Man."

And thus, in closing this book-this beautiful work of the scholar and the artist, this "grand contribution to science and education," upon its strong foundation of the Rock of Ages-we commend it to the teacher for his scholars and to the general reader to search of knowledge, particumake the study of its pages a pleasant recreation

LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

MACMILLAN & Co. have just published an artist's book of travel under the title of "six Weeks in the Saddle, a Painter's Journal in Iceland," by S. E. Waller.

PROFESSOR JAMES HELFENSTEIN'S "Comparative Grammar of the Teutonic Languages" is just out in London, and is the best historical grammar o the English, Gothic, Anglo-Saxon, Icelandic, Danish, Swedish, German, Old Saxon and Dutch tongues.

THE LAST BOOK of the voluminous Miss C. M. Yonge is a life of Bisnop Patteson, of the Melanesian islands, in two volumes. The Bishop had a youths' college and a little schooner in the Pacific, with headquarters in New Caledonia, whence he sailed about from Island to island, intent on religious and educational work, until he was murdered by the delectable savages. THE ARCADIAN defines a journalist as a man who

spends the best days of his life in conferring reputations on others and getting none himself. A NEW BOOK on Ashantee and the Gold Coast,

by Captain Brackenbury and Captain Huyshe, is on the eve of publication in London. DR. GEORGE McDonald's new novel, "Malcolm,"

deals partly with American and partly with Scottish life. It is being published as a serial in the Glasgow Weekly Herald. MR. HERBERT SPENCER'S third series of "Essays-Scientific, Political and Speculative"-will

A NEW LONDON DAILY, to be called the Circle will be commenced in January, and devoted chiefly

to local London news. Dr. SAMUEL DAVIDSON has written an essay on a fresh revision of the English Old Testament, He thinks all modern new versions greatly inferior to the existing standard English translation.

THE GREAT NUMBER of books written by Englishmen and Englishwomen, and the very small num ber of works concerning England by Frenchmen. draws this remark from the Athenœum:-

The balance is unequal. Frenchmen are lamentably loath to learn anything about England, and indeed, about anything beyond their boundaries. Englishmen are a tride too eager to know everything which concerns Frenchmen.

A COPY OF LORD LYTTON'S drama entitled of which only four conies were "Cromwell," printed for the author, to use in altering or amending, brought £11 at a recent London auction. M. Louis Veuillor, the ultramontane editor of

the Paris Univers, draws from the Spectator this e he would be deemed one of the most projane, wealth, the strength and the bitterness of his

an Ecumenical council in his link bottle. His Christianity gives a new commandment, "fhat if a man strike thee on the one cheek, thou shall hit him back, and hit him hard."

December Fraser on "Phidias," showing that there is no proof that Phidias ever made any statues in marble at all. THE Saturday Review laments that Tacitus, the

most powerful and sarcastic of Latin historians has no readers in England except among professional scholars. THE Spectator calls Mr. William Black's new

nove!, "A Princess of Thule," "a beautiful and almost perfect story." MRS. COWDEN CLARKE contributes to the Gentlenan's Magazine some unpublished letters of Charles

Lamb, which are delightful.

A "NEW HISTORY OF ROMAN LITERATURE." ranslated from the German of Professor W. S. Teuffel, is likely to supersede its predecessors. Mr. R. A. PROCTOR, Whose "Border Land of Science" was recently issued in London, is the

most prolific of modern scientific writers.

Mr. James W. Gerard, Jr., has just given to the public, in the compass of a volume of about 800 pages, an apparently complete review of the whole ceal estate system of this State, from the early colo nial period to the present time. This involves, of course, a full consideration of the English common law imported into the colony and prevailing here, not only under colonial rule, but until modified or changed by subsequent constitutional or State legislation. In connection with realty in this State, the principles of the "civil law," as administered under the Dutch provincial government, from which many titles to land in the have been derived, is a necessary branch of investigation. The legal instrumentality by which lands vest or are transferred the incidents pertaining to the various interests or estates in land, the many liens to which and has been made subject and the methods of their removal are also involved in a consideration of our present real estate system. Thoroughly to review and present in a practicable form subjects so important in their nature and involving so extended lego-historical research as is necessary in their investigation and treatment is a task not only requiring a thorough general knowledge of

the subject, but much labor in detail. Mr. Gerard appears to have executed with ability and fidelity the task imposed in reviewing the above subjects.

Among forthcoming works illustrating local American history is a new history of the State of Illinois, from 1673 to 1873, by Alexander Davidson and Bernard Stuvé, of Springfield.

THE REV. W. GRESLEY has published a book entitled "friests and Philosophers," which takes the side of orthodox religion against such scientific writers as Darwin, Huxley, Dr. Carpenter, &c MR. CHARLES NEW has published "Life, Wanderings and Labors in East Africa," which the Athenœum pronounces a crude, badly written and

unsatisfactory book. MR. JOHN B. LEIFCHILD'S new book on "The Higher Ministry of Nature" is pronounced by the Spectator to be a spasmodic and inconsistent proest against Darwinism.

MESSES. CHAMBERS have in preparation a new edition of "Chamber's Cyclopædia," bringing the work down to the dates of the last census in Great Britain, Ireland and other European countries.

PROFESSOR SPENCER BAYNES, of St. Andrew's University, is editing the ninth edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica." in which it is believed that he publishers will invest a sum of not less than £200,000. The first volume will appear shortly.

A NEW HAND BOOK OF PROVERBS AND QUOTATIONS, by James A. Mair, has been published by Routledge & Sons. Anybody who will commit to memory a wisdom, and might become the oracle of any coun

UNDER the title of "The Stately Homes of England" Messrs, L. Jewitt & S. C. Hall have published an illustrated and descriptive book about the cas tles and private residences of the English gentry.

A SHIP'S CREW SUFFOCATED.

Three Men Dead and Two Others in a Comatos State from the Effects of Coal Gas.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Jan. 3, 1874. Early this morning intelligence of the death of hree seamen by the inhalation of carbonic oxide gas, caused by the burning of bituminous coal in the stove of a vessel in this harbor, was rife on the streets here. The particulars of the terrible accident are as follows:-About six o'clock this morning a colored stevedore, who was to take the ballast from the German barkantine Adolph, which arrived here yesterday, went to the old Wilmington and Weddon depot wharf, where the Adolph is lying and finding no one up on board the vessel, he aroused the mate, who was sleeping in the cabin, and signified his readiness to proceed to work. The mate repaired to the forecastle, where the sailors slept, to wake them up, and after an unsuccessiul attempt to arouse them he essaved to get the door open, but in this he lailed, and finally wrenched it off its hinges. He entered the forecastle and was at once compelled to leave, as the gas was suffocating. Entering again in a few minutes, he found TWO OF THE MEN DEAD

in their bunks, and three others with the spark of life nearly extinct. One of the men, the carpenter, was found out of his bunk on the floor, where it is supposed he fell while attempting to make his way

supposed he fell while attempting to make his way out of his sieeping apartment.

Assistance was immediately called, and the three men who were yet alive were taken out and placed on deck, to receive all the benefits of fresh air. While the two dead men were being cut from their bunks messengers were despatched for physicians, and in a very lew minutes Drs. Cutlar, Beliamy, waiker and Lane were by the side of the infortunate men and doing all in their power to relieve them.

ANOTHER VICTIM DEAD.

Before the physicians arrived the cook, a lad about 17 years old, one of the unfortunates who were taken out alive, died. The two surviving men, who are brothers, are still lying in a very precarious condition, and it remains to be seen which will have the supremacy, life or the poison.

THE SOURCE OF THE DISASTER.

Upon examination of the stove in the galley, which is separated from the seamen's bunks by only a thin board parition, a very large crack was discovered across the top, and it is supposed that the gas evolved from the burning coal escaped through it, and worked its way through the cracks, seams and crevices of the partition into the forecastle.

the forecastle.

The vessel left Richmond about one week ago. The vessel left Richmond about one week ago. While in port there a supply of the Richmond coal, which is bituminous, was laid in, and had been used since the departure of the vessel. The men were all very much fatigued last night. The vessel had leaked on the voyage from kichmond to this port, and the crew were completely worn out by their labors before retiring last night. It is supposed that lors some purpose the cook went into the galley and kindled the coal fire, unaware of the danger from the effects of the gas in a close room. NAMES OF THE SUFFOCATED SAILORS.

NAMES OF THE SUPFOCATED SAILORS.

The names of the three men who are dead are William Nicholas shutte, of Zingst, Pomerania; Karl Freder ck Theodore Kellemann, and Frederick Harmon Christian Holz, of Barth, Prussia. Those who are now novering between life and death are, as above stated, brothers. One is named Hermann Christian Schutt and the other Johann Heinrich Schutt, both of Zingst, Prussia. They are both married men, as was also one of the deceased. All fine of the men were aplanted specimens of physical charters. five of the men were splenald specimens of physi-cal beauty, and they must have formed a first class

The two brothers Schutt at nightfall were both lying in the comatose state in which they had been found, with but slight, if any, appearance of im night and do all that is possible. A jury of inquest was empaneiled this afternoon, but aujourned over

WHERE IS SHARKEY?

Maggie Jourdan To Be "Shadowed" by the Detectives.

The excitement attending the rumored arrest of Sharkey in Philadelphia having subsided the police are at fault once more what to do to keep up the interest in the matter sufficiently conceal their own shortcomings. Since Sharkey disappeared from the Tombs in such a surprisingly simple manner the police, the detectives and the Tombs people have been entirely at fault as to wnere he is, and have resorted to the same old games which were many times before employed in with a rumor which afterwards turns out to be lalse. Thus Sharkey has been up town, and the sapient detectives have got him within a range of six blocks. The day following the information upon which was founded this information proves to be incorrect. When again the pub-

reported from some inland town that Sharkey has been seen passing through it. The day after it is found that one man heard from another man that he had been informed somebody like Sharkey had been to the place. een to the place.
The sagacious lorce, having exhausted all these

The sagacious lorce, having exhausted all these expedients, which have left the whereabouts of Sharkey as much a matter of mystery as ever, have determined to employ another and a still staler method than any spoken of in finding the whereabouts of the fugitive from justice. They propose to "shadow" Maggie Jourdan, and, in the innocence of their hear's, believe that the woman who let the prisoner go is not smart enough to keep away from him. They will spend anxious days and weary nights in "spotting" her places of resort without the most remote probability of advancing their object one lota.

In the meantime Sharkey is away, and seems likely to remain so if present appearances mean anything.

It was stated yesterday by a triend of Sharkey.

anything.

It was stated yesterday by a friend of Sharkey, and a man who appeared to believe that the murderer was now all right, that Sharkey was in Mexico, where he had arrived saiely several days ago, He intended, said the informant to a Heralio reporter, to make his way to Central and probably South America. It is almost certain that Sharkey is not in this city nor within a thousand miles of it

THE GENET CHASE.

There were rumors in the city yesterday that ex-Senator and Assemblyman Harry Genet had been captured. A little looking around soon proved the faisity of this report, so absurd on the face of it. There is little doubt, and some of Mr. Genet's irlends are free to say so, that the political jugitive is in Canada, where he is likely to remain. Several persons entirely worthy of credence say they have seen him in Montreal, and insist that they could not be mistaken. In the meantime ex-sheriff Brennan has not given the matter up, and believes that he can capture Genet. His men are still on what they believe to be the trait, and from day to day Mr. Brennan hopes for the return of the breitive.

JUDGE DURELL'S CHARACTER. Additional Damaging Testimony Before the Committee.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Jan. 3, 1874. The Durell Investigating Committee continued its labors to day from ten A. M. to half-past four P. M. The examination was principally confined to members of the Bar who have been practising in in the Bankrupt Court. Attorneys Robert Mott, J. Ad. Rozier, John Finney and John H. Kennard were each upon the stand. The evidence elicited was all of a general nature, relative to the various irregularities practised in the Court and reflecting upon Judge Durell's habits, though not to such an overwhelming extent as that developed yesterday. Charley Rhodes, the keeper of the restaurant fre-

Charley Rhodes, the keeper of the restaurant frequented by Durell when on his bouts, was examined, but was as general and non-committal as possible in his testimony.

The popular opinion is that Durell's cause is already lost. United States District Attorney Beckwith is open in his expressions of opinion to that effect, and an ominous leeling of alarm pervades the Custom House circles. United States Marshal Packard was also subjected to a long examination this morning, but nothing concerning the nature of his evidence has yet transpired. The Republican of this morning objects strongly to the examination being conducted in secret; but public opinion endorses the course of the committee.

In addition to the foregoing the following witnesses were examined during the day:—Mr. Whitney, late reporter of the Picayane, with others, who testified directly in confirmation of Durell's bad habits; Mr. Davis, of the late firm of Davis & Jackson, clothiers, who stated that he was forced

Jackson, clothiers, who stated that he was forced into bankruptcy by the Ring, which extorted \$30,000 from him before granting his discharge, and that out of over \$100,000 of the assets collected his creditors from him before granting his discinarge, and the of over \$100,000 of the assets collected his cree received only a pittance; also that while his was under seizure Durell, Norton and Welis to it and fitted themselves out with stoclothing. Confirmatory evidence was also elfrom the members of the Bar, concerning the number of deeds issued nominally for \$10, in lact, the consideration received were large amounts that do not appear upon the re-

BREACH OF PROMISE.

Fascinating Young Lady Recovers \$15,000 for Her Wounded Heart-"He 's a Fooling Thee."

From the London Daily News, Dec. 20.1 At the Liverpool Assizes on Thursday and yesterday a singular case of breach of promise of marriage was tried before Mr. Baron Pollock, the damages being laid at £10,000. The plaintiff, a lady of 22, is the daughter of Mr. Nuttall, a Liverpool merchant and shipowner, who died last January, leaving a widow and five children, two of who were daughters. In the spring Mrs. Nuttall and her daughters went to stay for some time at Buxton, where they met the defendant, Mr. George Henry Wildes, who was also staying there with some friends. Mr. Wildes, who represented himself as wealthy and of good social position, was introduced to Miss Nuttail, and paid her great attention, finally proposing marriage. He was accepted, though he explained that he had been married before, that he had two children, who resided with his mother in Lowndes square, London, and that he had procured a divorce from his wife. The proposed marriage was approved of on all sides, and Mrs. Wildes wrote in the most motherly, affectionate terms to the plaintiff. Ultimately the wedding was fixed for the 11th of October; but on the 3d of that month the defendant wrote to Miss Nuttall that he had had a meeting with his divorced wife, that people had lied to him about her and that he loved her as much as ever, in fact, on the 11th of October his

about her and that he loved her as much as ever, in lact, on the lith of October his wife was published in the newspapers. Mr. Pope, Q. C., appeared for the plaintiff, and, having stated the above facts, said he did not wish to say a hard word of the delendant. While much might be said for him, while it might even be urged with truth that there was nothing in his remarriage with his first wife, if he found his love for her still constant, to call for any observation derogative of his character as a man of honor, yet the blow to Miss Nuttail was a very sad one. She, at all events, had allowed her young affections to be layished upon him under the statement that he loved her. The learned counsel then referred to the prospect of social advancement and settlement which the plaintiff had lost, and for which she sought compensation at the hands of the jury. The plaintiff, her mother and her sister were called and gave evidence to the above effect. Mrs. Nuttail stated that the defendant had told her he had an independent income of £1,400 a year.

were called and gave evidence to the above effect. Mrs. Nuttall stated that the defendant had told her he had an independent income of £1,400 a year, and that he allowed £300 a year to his divorced wife. For the defendent fam. Charles Russell, Q. C. called Mr. Richard W. Halse, of London, the defendant's solicitor, who stated that, although the defendant's total income was £1,650 a year, he had to pay £300 a year to his wile, £200 to his children, and other amounts, which reduced his income to only £450 a year. Mr. Russell then

ADDRESSED THE COURT
on behalf of the defendant. He had always thought it was most incongruous to talk about bruised feelings and blighted affections, and yet in the next breath to talk of money damages as a solatium for it all. It was a matter of as much pain to Captain Wildes as it was to Miss Nuttall to come there. Granted that he had made it rasnly, inconsiderately and imprudently; granted that he had broken the promise; what were the damages that he ought to pay? If the jury thought that he had broken his promise for a base and sordid reason, even though he might not be able to pay one tithe, still let them mulet him in heavy damages; but if they thought it was a promise more honored in the breach than in the observance, better a thousand times that it had never been made, or that, being made, it was broken. No one could say a permanent shadow had been cast upon the young lady's life and happiness. She was young, attractive, fascinating; had all the spirit of health, and the appearance of those charms calculated to please the most fastidious, and this was only an episode in ner life—an episode.

ERORGE TO ANNIE.

The following letters were read in the course of

The following letters were read in the course of the proceedings:

The following letters were read in the course of the proceedings:—

No. 2 Crowwell Place, South Kensington, Oct. 3, 1873.

My Dear Annie—I tear the contents of this letter will cause you great pain and sorrow, but nevertheless, I must write it. I was greatly annoyed at hearing from my solicitors that your mother had proposed to delay the wedding because of the settlements, although no alterations had taken piace on my side in them. I came up to town to see about this, and fully prepared to return to you and make you a kind and good husband. You may remember asking me if I still loved my wife, as Mrs. Williams told you it loved you with, perhaps, not so strong, but a quieter love, and this I believed. I have never seen my wife for two years and a half, and thought that all you for her was now gone from me; but it is not so. I have seen her again. She has been living very quietly and properly with her mether and brother for a long time, and people have lied to me and brother for a long time, and people have led to me and brother or a long time, and people have led to me and only thank dod that this meeting did not take place after future misery. Had I not come to London I could not have seen her, and we should have been married, and I should have met her alterwards, and what would have been the result? Endiess misery for you, her and myself. You will see now that marriage between us sumpossible and that our engagement must end. Poer Annie how sorry I am for you, but I shail never marry now unless I take back my wife, and can only pray God to solten the blow for you and let us teel that it has been sent with a good end in coming upon us now instead of hereafter. I go abroad immediately, and remain, dear Annie, still always your affectionate triend.

GEORGE H. WILDES.

Car Gwyn, Sr. Asaer, August 15, 1873.

My Darling Grosses—I have just sent Roberts to St.

CAR GWYN, ST. ASAPH. AUGUST 1873.
My DARLING GRORGE—I have just sent Roberts to St.
Asaph with a telegran; am now about to devote Ib minutes solely and entirely to your own big self I am tole,
observed Mr. Pope, that he is a nne, big handsome telefow, likely to attract the tancy of a girll, for I feel confident you have not been able to make air way.

Drawss Annu-Your loving letter is irresistible, and I sincerely hope nothing will prevent my coming to your marriage on the lith of next month. Indeed, dear Annue, from my own observation I feel convinced you will make near George a loving wite, and make up to him by a future domestic happy life for his past life of nifidre and disappointment. I already love you for your winning manner towards myself, and feel that I shall have an affectionate daughter hereaster, and sincerely trust no could will ever come between us. I am, as you know, devotedly attached to George, and his happiness is mine. I shall look forward to our meeting with much pleasure; and now, dear, please tell me it you will like a travelling bag or a despatch box bot, or if you have hent already. With love, believe me, yours affectiontely,

tely.

My Dran Mrs. Nutrall—I was sorty that my brief visit prevented more than a few words between you and me about this important business. I gathered, however, from your remarks that you, equally with myself, deprecate the hasty marriage arrangements proposed by George and Annie; indeed, I, for one, cannot see how they are to be carried out, unless, as you said, they are "to come together without a definite understanding of their means, and that we can help them afterwards." I think a marriage under such circumstances would be unwise. I understand from you that Annie will not have anything at all to add to George's now limited income, his habits, in my mind, are too set led for him to ive in a prudent way; but he thinks differently, and justly says it concerns aimself and Annie most; and we all agree to leave this question to the lawyers. For myself, I have, however, in order to prevent all misunderstanding, to say that, on his first marriage, I settled on my son as much as I could spare, and that goes to his two children. I have since done what I could for him; and, if he marries, it must be without any expectation of help from ne. This I have thought it my duty to say to you. I hope, if they do marry on such small means, they will not be less happy; and I am sure your dear loving chill is calculated to make the happiness of any home. Please gire her my love, and, with kind regards to yourself and Miss Nuttall, I am sincerity yours.

The Judge having summed up, the jury retired,

The Judge having summed up, the jury retired, and after some deliberation returned a verdict for £3,000 damages.

VIRGINIA CONSERVATISM.

Opposition to the Civil Rights Bill-If It Becomes Law Free Schools are to Dis-RICHMOND, Jun. 3, 1874.

At a caucus of the conservative members of the State Senate held this evening resolutions were adopted reaffirming that plank in the party platform which declares, in substance, that the people of Virginia mean to offer no "captious hostility" to President Grant's administration; but deprecates the passage of the Civil Rights bill as injudicious, unwise and likely to prove hurtful to both races, This action of the conservatives in the higher branch of the Legislature will, undoubtedly, be endorsed by the members of the edly, be endorsed by the members of the party in the House, and, it is hoped, will have some influence upon Congress. However, in view of the great probability of the passage of the Civil Rights bill, a prominent conservative member of the Senate has introduced a bill providing for the assembling of a new State Constitutional Couvention. It is certain that a great effort will be made to destroy the free school system of Virginia when mixed schools become unavoidable by the operation of federal law. The only way to accomplish this is by amendment to the State constitution, and hence the desire for a new convention.

to the State constitution, and hence the desire for a new convention.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Superintendent of Public Schools of Rich-mond city, and a great majority of the conserva-tive members of the Legislature, assert that the passage of the Civi Rights bill will be the death knell of the free school arstem in this city and State.